

Legal Notice
Stray Creek project
USDA Forest Service
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
Lochsa-Powell Ranger District

The Lochsa-Powell Ranger District of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is seeking comments on the Stray Creek project during this combined scoping and 30-day comment period. The Stray Creek project is located approximately 5 miles north Syringa, Idaho. The project is proposed to increase early-seral species diversity where stands are dominated by grand fir/Douglas-fir mix, are affected by disease; and to provide economic benefits to rural communities. The Stray Creek environmental assessment is available online at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53658>.

The proposed action includes regeneration harvest that may create openings larger than 40 acres. Currently, these acreage estimates do not account for all sensitive areas and/or streams that would be removed from proposed treatment areas. Section 6 of the National Forest Management Act requires that cuts designed to regenerate an even-aged stand of timber may be subject to established maximum size limits, per 16 USC 1604 (g)(3)(F)(iv), the limit is 40 acres. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2471.1 allows for this size limit to be exceeded with Regional Forester approval and 60-day public notice.

The Stray Creek project is subject to the predecisional administrative review process (objection process) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218 subparts A and B. Objections will only be accepted from those who have submitted written comments specific to the proposed project during this 30-day comment period or other public involvement where written comment are requested by the Responsible Official (36 CFR 218.5). While comments on this project are accepted at any time during the planning process, the Responsible Official, District Ranger Brandon Knapton, does not anticipate providing an additional request for written comments other than this combined scoping and 30-day comment period.

Comments must be received 30 calendar days following publication of this legal notice in the newspaper of record, the *Lewiston Morning Tribune* (Lewiston, Idaho). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit comments by the close of the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments submitted by individuals or organizations must have evidence of timely submission, as defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4), and meet the following requirements outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3):

- Name and postal address (email recommended but not required)
- Title of the proposed project or activity (i.e. Stray Creek)
- Specific written comments as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 regarding the proposed project of activity, along with supporting reasons
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request and identification of the individual or entity who authored the comments. For comments listing multiple entities or multiple

individuals, a signature or other means of verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each entity and for each individual in the case of multiple names. A scanned signature or other means of verifying the identity of the individual or entity representative may be used for electronically submitted comments.

- Individual members of an entity must submit their own comments to establish personal eligibility; comments received on behalf of an entity are considered as those of the entity only.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requests for confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances.

Comments may be submitted to the Responsible Official via the following methods: Mailed to: Kooskia Ranger Station, c/o Sara Daugherty, 502 Lowry Street, Kooskia, Idaho 83539; if hand delivering, submit to the address above during business hours, 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays; or e-mail message to comments-northern-clearwater-lochsa@usda.gov; or by following this link: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=53658>. Please put “Stray Creek project” in the subject line. An automated response should confirm your electronic comment has been received. Electronic comments must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than those listed above, in other formats, or containing viruses will be rejected. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender’s responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

Copies of the Stray Creek environmental assessment is available at the project website link provided above. This document is available in other formats upon request. For more information, or questions concerning this project or how to comment, please contact Sara Daugherty, Natural Resource Planner, 208-926-6404; or sara.daugherty@usda.gov.

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